Gauge Conversion of Nagore-Bangalore railway line

2295. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to lay a broad gauge line between Nagore and Bangalore via Dharmapuri and Thiruvannamalai;

(b) whether any survey in this regard has been carried out; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and when such survey will be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no plan at present for taking up any such survey. However, the Gauge Conversion of Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore and Hosur-Salem via Dharmapuri when completed will provide a broad gauge connection between Nagore and Bangalore.

Ban on the production and use of Toxic Chlorinated Pesticides

2296. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India is one of the few countries still manufacturing and using most toxic chlorinated pesticides, some of which are targetted for global phase out by the world community; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to stop the production and use of such toxic chlorinated pesticides in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Under the Insecticides Act, 1968, ten organochlorine pesticides, namely, Aldrin, Chlordane, Chlorbenzilate, DDT, Dieldrin, Endrin, Endosulfan, HCH, Heptachlor and y-HCH have been registered in the country for manufacture and use. Out of these ten pesticides, four pesticides, namely, Aldrin, Endrin, Chlordane, and Heptachlor are banned for import/manufacture and use in the country. The remaining six pesticides have also been reviewed by the Government and the following decisions have been taken:

(i) *Dieldrin:* The use of Dieldrin has been restricted with effect from 25.5.90 for locust control in desert areas.

(ii) DDT: The use of DDT has been withdrawn in agriculture with effect from 26.5.89. Its use in public health programmes is allowed upto 10,000 tonnes per annum.

(iii) Endosulfan: The use of Endosulfan has been reviewed and allowed without any restriction.

(iv) y-HCH: The use of y-HCH has been banned on vegetables/ fruits, oilseed crops and for preservation of foodgrains with effect from 30.10.90. Further, the Government has decided to ban the yHCH with effect from 1.4.97.

(v) Gamma HCH (Lindane): The use of Lindane formulations generating smoke for indoor use is prohibited in India with effect from 4.9.92. However, the Lindane has been allowed to be produced in the country for use for the control of insect pests of field crops.

(vi) Chlorbenzilate: The use of Chlorbenzilate in agriculture is banned with effect from 25.7.89. If required, it can be imported by the Government/ Semi-Government organisations for controlling mites of honeybees.

Ban on Agro-Chemicals

2297. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleasd to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban certain agro-chemicals in the light of their adverse impact on agricultural workers in some countries;

(b) if so, the details of the agro-chemicals affecting adversely on agricultural workers; and

(c) by when such agro-chemicals would be banned in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Agro-chemicals popularly known as pesticides